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FLORIDA STATE FAIR RETURNS FOR ITS 114TH YEAR

Tampa, Fla. (January 25, 2018) – The 2018 Florida State Fair returns to the Florida State Fairgrounds from February 8-19, 2018. This year’s theme, “Discover The Fun at YOUR Florida State Fair,” focuses on the fact that there is something for everyone at the Fair – all at an affordable price and parking is always free.

With numerous new attractions and entertainment options, the Florida State Fair offers non-stop family fun. The Fair will feature 110 rides including four large roller coasters and the largest traveling Ferris wheel in North America. As always, there are new trends in food with our creative concessionaires. This year’s new food items include: BBQ Pulled Pork Ribbon Fries, Catfish Sundae, Banana Frenkel Funnel Cake and Deep Fried Strawberry Shortcake.

“As always our rides and food will be a huge draw for our guests. But...this year, there is so much more”, said Cheryl Flood, Executive Director of the Florida State Fair. “All for the price of admission, families can enjoy live shows, character meet and greets, music and sports. A family could visit us all 12 days and never see all that the Fair has to offer.”

There are entertainment options for all ages. For the little ones, there are meet and greets with Rusty Rivets and Paw Patrol. A PBS Kids Fun Zone featuring all your favorite PBS characters and plenty of hands-on activities, as well as Little Farm Hands presented by Mosaic, Inc., a free hands-on exhibit where children learn to milk a cow, gather eggs and pick produce. For tweens, Teen Stars LIVE will make a stop at the fair on February 10 and 11 with performances and meet and greets with the stars of Disney and Nickelodeon TV shows and on February 16 and 17, the fair will host its first ever Dance Championship which will be judged by the stars of the show *Dance Moms*.

New this year, the Fair boasts an extreme sports series with action-packed events such as BMX/FMX Freestyle Madness, Mini Monster Trucks on February 9 and 10, lawn mower races on

February 17 and 18 and, back by popular demand, the Demolition Derby on February 17. The Ninja Experience features a team of martial arts experts, who competed on *America's Got Talent*, wowing audiences with high-flying, jaw-dropping performances.

As always, the music scene will showcase local and national acts alike. Seniors' favorites Country Gold Tour, The River City Boys, Elvis Extravaganza National Championship and Central Florida Rat Pak will return to the stage again this year. Kazual, Dennis Lee, Vocal Trash, Fuel on Fire and Screaming Orphans as well as a long list of local Tampa Bay bands will also perform.

Agriculture has always been at the heart of everything the Fair represents and this year won't be any different. A variety of species from around the Southeast will be judged and on display in the livestock barns including beef and dairy animals, pygmy, goats, dairy goats, sheep and swine. In addition, there will be a Purebred Dog Exhibit, Rabbit & Poultry Show and Salute to Ag Exhibit, where students will see beef cows, dairy cows, chickens and sow and litter, as well as a variety of other animals.

To end each exciting day of the Fair, there will be a spectacular laser light show at 7:00 pm and 9:00 PM.

For a full list of entertainment, attractions and events, visit floridastatefair.com.

A variety of ticket promotions will be available during the Fair including Coca-Cola Day, February 19, Hungry Howie's Family Nights, February 12-15 and Heroes Day, February 8 when military and first responders are admitted free with up to three family members. Advance discounted Tickets are available on the Fair's website or at participating Publix locations in the Tampa Bay area at the Customer Service desk through February 7.

About Florida State Fair:

The Florida State Fair, first held in Tampa in 1904, has become one of the largest events in the state, attracting more than 500,000 people during its 12-day run. Over 90 years since its inception, the Florida State Fair now boasts the largest carnival Midway in the USA, a robust agricultural program, a circus, interactive animal exhibits and new attractions each year. As the first State Fair of the year, the Florida State Fair is the first to debut new and unique fair food such as the Pizza Cone, Redneck Burger, Bacon Ice Cream and so much more! It's affordable family fun at its best. For more information, about the Florida State Fair visit www.floridastatefair.com or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and/or [Instagram](#).

About the Florida State Fair Authority:

The mission of the Florida State Fair Authority and its Board of Directors is to create positive entertainment experiences through: the annual Florida State Fair; a variety of year-round events; quality competitive programs; a commitment to agriculture, education and community service, and a focus on new opportunities.

The Florida State Fair Authority does not receive state, county or city tax dollars. Operations are funded by revenue generated by the annual Florida State Fair and the rental of Fairgrounds facilities to outside entities throughout the year. For more information about the Florida State Fair Authority, go to www.floridastatefair.com.

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